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DATE July 7, 1961

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Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 17
From Moscow

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. [redacted]

2. Berlin/Germany. Soviet demands for a German peace treaty and "resolution of the West Berlin problem on that basis" cropped up in virtually every major Soviet public statement devoted to foreign affairs this week. However, there has been no significant deviation from the details and timing which appeared in Khrushchev's speech on June 21.

The Secretary's June 29 CBS interview was reported in a short account in Pravda which remarked that the Secretary's reiteration of "the old assertion" that the US and its allies are in Berlin by right, clearly indicate the West is not prepared to move toward a just settlement of the West Berlin problem.

3. Laos. There has been no change in the treatment of Laos by the Soviet press over the past several weeks. Although still grouped among the major current global crises and the subject on a continuing conference in Geneva, Laos has been given but a few, if any, inches in the pages of the daily papers. The impression has been created that the next step in a solution to the Laotian problem is the formation of a coalition government and, until that occurs, the stage has shifted from Geneva to Laos itself. In this connection the impending return to Laos of Phoumi via Washington, Souvanuvong via Moscow and Peiping, and Souvanna Phouma via Paris, were noted in the press. Chicom Foreign Minister Ch'en Yi's departure from Geneva and his last speech at the Conference were also briefly reported.

4. Major Anniversaries in Communist China and Outer Mongolia. The 40th anniversary of the Chinese Communist P[illegible]y received scant attention in the Soviet press and no high level delegation was sent to Peiping to help celebrate it. The message of the CPSU Central Committee to its Chinese counterpart was worded in a way which made it appear as a formal, required exercise. The message noted that the Chinese Communist Party had undergone many difficulties and that the establishment of Communist power in China had a great effect on the international situation and the world communist movement, but omitted an endorsement of Chinese Communist theoretical formulations as correct Marxist-Leninist ones.

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In contrast to its treatment of this Chinese anniversary, the USSR sent a delegation headed by Suslov to the 14th Congress of the Mongolian Peoples Revolutionary Party. The Congress, which immediately precedes the 40th anniversary of the MPR, was given extensive coverage in the Soviet press and the Mongolian Party was praised for the purity of its ideology and contribution to bloc unity.

5. Pham Van Dong Visit. DRV Prime Minister Pham Van Dong concluded his visit to the USSR on July 5. The joint communique published over his and Khrushchev's signatures seemed, like Khrushchev's June 28 speech in honor of Pham's visit, to give greater emphasis to Soviet global policies than to DRV and Far Eastern problems. The communique expressed Soviet support for the peaceful reunification of Vietnam and condemned alleged military preparations by South Vietnam agreed upon during Vice President Johnson's visit as a threat to the security of Southeast Asia. There was no indication of fresh Soviet economic aid to the DRV in the communique, although it included expressions of DRV gratitude to Soviet specialists and a Soviet commitment to contribute to the further development of political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries.

6. Visits. CPR Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ch'en Yi arrived in Moscow from Geneva and was given a lunch attended by Khrushchev, Kozlov, Kosygin, Mikoyan, and Gromyko.

North Korean Deputy Chairman Kim Il-Sung has been touring the USSR at the head of a large party of DRK officials. B1

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1,000 Cuban youths arrived at Odessa on board a Soviet vessel. The Cubans will be sent to different parts of the USSR for agricultural training.

Marshal Malinovsky returned from Finland on July 2 after completing a good-will visit there. Soviet astronaut Gagarin has been kept in the news with reports of his tour of Finland.

The Ecuadorian Vice President Arosmena and a party of Ecuadorian parliamentarians are touring in the USSR on invitation of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Organov.

Italian Sovialist Party leaders Tulio Vekketti and Dario Valorie were received by Presidium member Otto Kuusinen on July 5.

[redacted]

On the same day, a French CP Central Committee delegation led by Byurl Janom returned to France after a three-week visit in the USSR to study the work of the CPSU.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

7. Leadership. Khrushchev demonstrated anew his enormous energy reserves by appearing at no fewer than 13 protocol occasions during the week including the Ambassador's July 4 reception. Attendance by four Presidium figures was foreshadowed by articles in Pravda and Izvestiya which, while criticizing policies, not unsympathetically described the American revolutionary tradition and noted the 185th anniversary of the independence of the United States. Khrushchev was accompanied to the Fourth of July party by Mrs. Khrushchev, Madame Furtseva and both of his First Deputy Chairmen: Mikoyan and Kosygin.

The latter two together with CC Secretary Kozlov divided the lion's share of the week's representational load, each appearing on about 10 occasions during the week. With the impending visit of the Prime Minister of Ghana on July 10 and the Prime Minister of the Sudan a week later, Khrushchev personally faces a busy schedule in July.

Every Moscow resident Presidium figure except Polyanskiy and Ignatov were active during a busy week in which there were no fewer than eight group gatherings of the Presidium.

All five CC secretaries were active as such. Khrushchev has been mentioned. Suslov was in Ulan Bator attending the XIV Congress of the Mongolian Communist Party (as head of the Soviet delegation). CC Secretary Kozlov served the visiting Korean delegation as travelling guide by accompanying them to Kiev (July 2-4). The group was met there by Ukrainian First Secretary Podgornyy and Chairman of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Korotchenko, who are presidium member and candidate member respectively. CC Secretary Mukhitdinov accompanied the Vietnamese delegation to Leningrad (June 30 to July 2). Befitting his age and state of health the fourth CC Secretary, Kuusinnen, was much less active. He received an Italian Socialist Party delegation July 5.

8. Death Penalty Extended to Include Currency Speculators. A July 1 law extends capital punishment (by shooting) to large scale currency speculators (Airgram A-4 of July 4). It is the second time within two months that the death penalty has been legalized for crimes the regime has found difficult to stamp out. The wording of the new law continues to suggest an intention ultimately to abolish the death penalty by using the phrase "until its ultimate abolishment." This may be a hint that the general trend to extend the death penalty is recognized as unpopular by the regime. In this connection it should be remembered that the May 5 decree which added the death penalty to three crimes as well as the basic criminal code all use this phrase and that the death penalty was eliminated once before in 1947 only to be reimposed in January, 1950. Further extension of this "exceptional punishment" (as capital punishment is called) suggests that the leadership is determined to

abolish certain crimes which its doctrine preaches are remnants of a decadent past. Apparently the regime has concluded that this will be done only by imposition of harsh deterent punishments.

9. The Six Secretaries of the Ukraine. On the occasion of a July 2 visit to Kiev by a North Korean Party-Government delegation now visiting the Soviet Union, most important party personages in the Ukraine were on hand to greet the Korean guests (Pravda of July 3). N. V. Podgornyy was among the greeters identified as "Presidium member and First Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of the Ukraine." Other persons identified as "secretaries of the Ukraine Central Committee" included I.P. Kazanets, N.D. Bubnovskiy, A. D. Skaba, O.I. Ivashchenko and A. I. Gayevoy, a CC secretary elected at the May 19 Plenum.

Since all six were in attendance on the same occasion as "secretaries" it can be concluded that Gayevoy did not replace any other person on the Ukrainian Secretarial when he was elected May 19 but rather is an additional--a sixth secretary. Just like the Kazakh Republic (see Weeka No. 25 of June 23), the Ukraine has six CC secretaries. This may be a concession to its size, or may permit N. V. Podgornyy special latitude to function as a Presidium member (roughly analagous to T.I. Sokolov's status in the Kazakh apparatus as both a CC secretary and First Secretary of Tselinnyy Kray).

10. Personnel List of the RSFSR Bureau: RSFSR Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The publicity given the death of S. K. Korotkov (who died on July 2) has made possible identification of RSFSR Deputy Minister of Agriculture M.M. Sevast'yanov (Pravda of July 6). Until his identification Sevast'yanov was carried on Embassy records as Deputy Chief of the CC Section on Party Organs for the RSFSR. The signers of Korotkov's obituary published the day before (Pravda of July 5) included nearly the entire CC Bureau for RSFSR Affairs with the possible addition of two new members (presumed) not before noted on Embassy records: G. I. Vorob'ev and V. A. Karlov. The new (presumed) structure of the bureau has been submitted in Embassy Despatch No. 18 of July 7, 1961.

11. Army-wide Komsomol Conference Suggests Discipline Problems in Army. Defense Chief Malinovskiy and rocket hero Gagarin appeared at the Army-wide Komsomol Conference opening July 4, but Marshal F. I. Golikov, who is Chief of Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy appears to have delivered the principal speech (published in Red Star on July 5 in condensed form). It is interesting to note that Major General N. R. Mironov, Chief of the CC Section on Administrative Organs also sat on the Presidium. (He was identified only as Chief of a CC Section and no mention made of his military rank. Komsomolskaya Pravda of July 5.)

The Conference heard Golikov criticize army Komsomol organizations in the military districts of Siberia and Turkestan which have not yet rid themselves of "such crude violations of military discipline and amoral activities as (1) AWOL, (2) participation in drinking bouts, and (3) "disrespect to women." Golikov deplores a slack attitude which permits a Komsomol to overlook irregularities in the behavior of his comrade "today" so that the comrade will return the favor "tomorrow."

Apparently not all Komsomol behavior in the army follows guide lines set down by the party. Marshal Golikov, evidently a proponent of strict discipline, speaks of [redacted]

> "...the intolerable case, when the influence of the collective is utilized not for the purpose of warning others from delinquency, but for deliverance of the guilty from serving his punishment--when instead of a sharp, principled evaluation of facts pertaining to a transgression by a Komsomol member [his comrades] keep "mum" and even go to the defense of the transgressor. Naturally, we must educate people but we never must be indulgent with those who violate army laws and regulations."

MILITARY - ARMY [redacted]

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